

# TIPS FOR DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING A FAMILY EVACUATION PLAN

*Should evacuation become necessary, it is absolutely crucial you and your family are prepared and remain as calm and organized as possible throughout the process. The following tips should help you prepare and respond. **First and foremost, if you are ordered to evacuate, DO NOT WAIT.***

- Develop a family hurricane preparedness plan today before the storm hits.
- If ordered to evacuate, do not wait or delay your departure.
- If possible, leave before local officials issue an evacuation order for your area. Even a slight delay in starting your evacuation will result in significantly longer travel times as traffic congestion worsens.
- Select the evacuation destination that is nearest to your home, preferably in the same county, or at least minimize the distance over which you must travel in order to reach your intended shelter location.
- In choosing your destination, keep in mind that the hotels and other sheltering options in most inland metropolitan areas are likely to be filled very quickly in a large, multi-county hurricane evacuation event.
- If it becomes necessary to evacuate to another region, be prepared to wait in traffic. The large number of people in our area who must evacuate during a hurricane will probably cause massive delays and major congestion along most designated evacuation routes; the larger the storm, the greater the probability of traffic jams and extended travel times.
- If possible, make arrangements to stay with the friend or relative who resides closest to your home and who will not have to evacuate. Discuss with your intended host the details of your family evacuation plan with them.
- If a hotel or motel is your final intended destination during an evacuation, make reservations before you leave. Most hotel and motels will fill quickly once evacuations begin.
- Many hotels do not allow pets. Find [pet-friendly](#) hotels and motels if you plan to take a pet.
- Use shelters as a last resort. This will relieve stress on services and save space for those who have nowhere else to turn.
- Remember, shelters are not designed for comfort and do not usually accept pets. Bring your [disaster supply kit](#) with you to the shelter. Make sure that you fill up your car with gas before you leave.

*Sources: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency*

**More information at:**

[himes.house.gov/hurricane](https://himes.house.gov/hurricane)